

A HIGH-SECURITY HOSPITAL OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, D.C.



CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE CHOSEN

CHAPTER 6:

MULTITUDE

DAVID
MORRELL
WRITER

MITCH
BREITWEISER
ARTIST

BRIAN
REBER
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CORY
PETIT
LETTERER

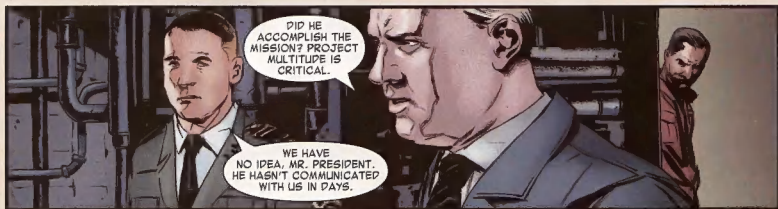
TRAVIS CHAREST &
JUSTIN PONSOR
VARIANT COVER ART

ANDY ALEJANDRO
SCHMIDT ARBONA
EDITORS

JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER









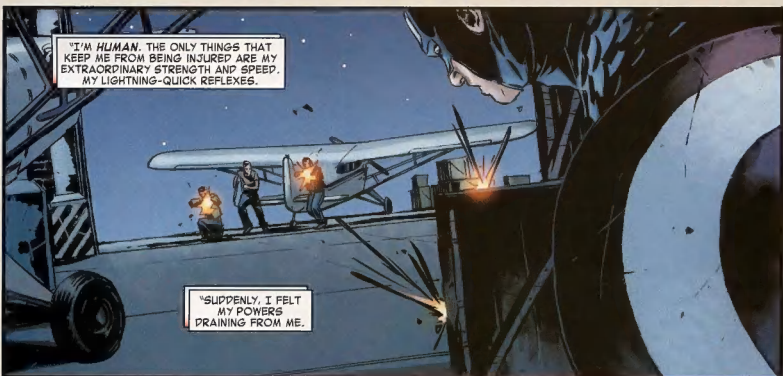
"...I LOST MY
STRENGTH."



"I'D NEVER FELT THIS EXPOSED BEFORE.
EVEN AT THE START, WHEN I WAS FIRST
LEARNING TO USE MY POWERS AS CAPTAIN
AMERICA, MY BODY NEVER FAILED ME."



"I'M HUMAN. THE ONLY THINGS THAT
KEEP ME FROM BEING INJURED ARE MY
EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH AND SPEED.
MY LIGHTNING-QUICK REFLEXES."



"SUPPENLY, I FELT
MY POWERS
DRAINING FROM ME."

"AGAIN, MY STRENGTH
SUDDENLY FAILED."

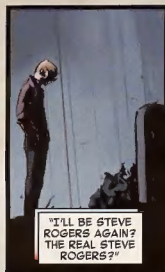


"IF MY
REFLEXES HADN'T
SURGED BACK..."



"THIS TIME,
I HAD NO DOUBT
IT WOULD HAPPEN
YET AGAIN."



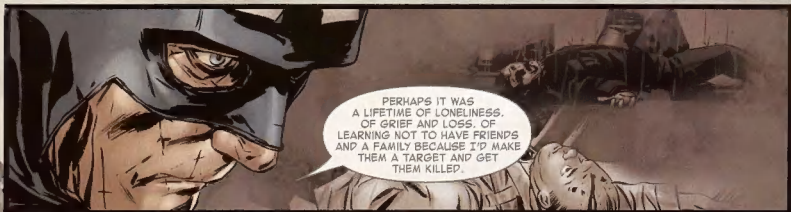


"I'LL BE STEVE ROGERS AGAIN? THE REAL STEVE ROGERS?"



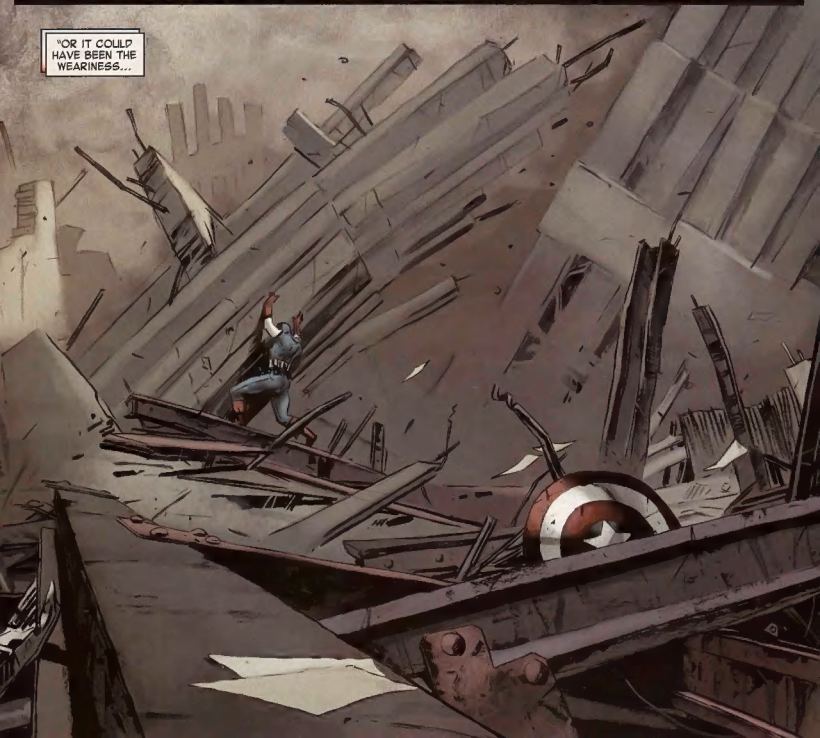
BUT THEY WERE WRONG.

IT TURNED OUT TO BE MUCH WORSE.



PERHAPS IT WAS A LIFETIME OF LONELINESS. OF GRIEF AND LOSS. OF LEARNING NOT TO HAVE FRIENDS AND A FAMILY BECAUSE I'D MAKE THEM A TARGET AND GET THEM KILLED.

"OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WEARINESS..."



"...OF A LIFETIME...

"...OF FIGHTING EVIL."

"OR PERHAPS IT WAS THE PLANE EXPLOSION THAT TRAPPED ME IN ICE YEARS AGO."

"I NEVER FELT THE SAME AFTER THE ICE. IN MY MIND, THE YEAR WAS 1945. BUT SUDDENLY, IT WAS DECADES LATER. SO MUCH TIME WAS LOST. SO MUCH WAS CHANGED. FRIENDS HAD DIED. THE WAR WAS OVER. ANOTHER WAR HAD STARTED AND ENDED. SOMETHING CALLED THE COLD WAR WAS NOW BEING WAGED."

"MY MIND REELED AS I LEARNED ABOUT THE ATOMIC BOMB AND THE EVEN MORE DEVASTATING HYDROGEN BOMB. CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER. AGAIN AND AGAIN."





MAYBE BEING FROZEN ALTERED THE PROJECT REBIRTH CHEMICALS AND HORMONES IN MY SYSTEM. MAYBE THE DAMAGE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO ME...OR MAYBE I JUST WORE DOWN.



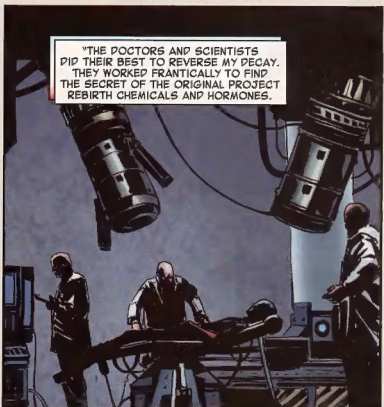
"I BECAME AS FRAIL AS I'D ORIGINALLY BEEN— BUT THEN I GOT FRAILER. IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THIS WASN'T ONLY A REGRESSION. I WAS THE VICTIM OF A RELENTLESS COLLAPSE."

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE?

SIX MONTHS.



"BUT THAT WAS WRONG, TOO. IT HAPPENED IN WEEKS, NOT MONTHS."



"THE DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS DID THEIR BEST TO REVERSE MY DECAY. THEY WORKED FRANTICALLY TO FIND THE SECRET OF THE ORIGINAL PROJECT REBIRTH CHEMICALS AND HORMONES."



"THEY FAILED."



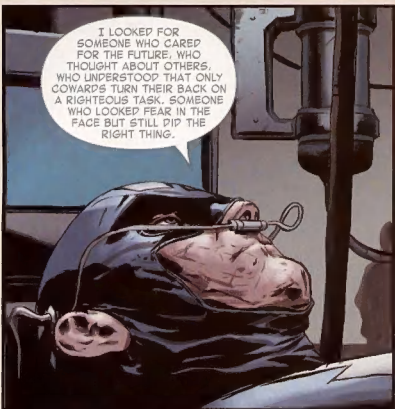
AS MY LIFE RACED TO AN END, THE ONLY OPTION THAT MADE SENSE TO ME WAS TO BE USEFUL ONE LAST TIME. TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE REMOTE-VIEWING EXPERIMENT...THE STRENGTH-SAPPING MIND PROJECTION THAT ALLOWS ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

BUT IF IT WEAKENS YOU EVEN FASTER, WHY ARE YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF TO BE WITH ME?



HE'S
DESCRIBING
PROJECT
MULTITUDE!

IF YOU GET CLOSE TO
CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU'RE
ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE
PRESIDENT.



I LOOKED FOR
SOMEONE WHO CARED
FOR THE FUTURE, WHO
THOUGHT ABOUT OTHERS,
WHO UNDERSTOOD THAT ONLY
COWARDS TURN THEIR BACK ON
A RIGHTEOUS TASK. SOMEONE
WHO LOOKED FEAR IN THE
FACE BUT STILL DID THE
RIGHT THING.



BUT IF **YOU** COULDN'T FINISH
THE JOB, WHAT HOPE DOES
AN ORDINARY PERSON LIKE
ME HAVE?

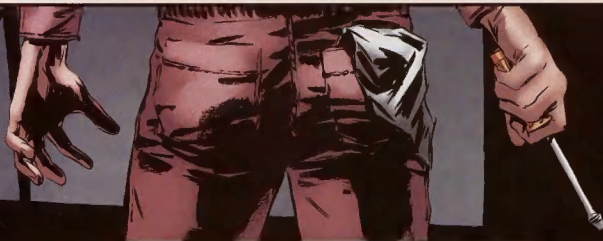
NOT ONE
PERSON.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



YOU'RE NOT
ORDINARY, AND
YOU WON'T BE
ALONE.

EVEN CAPTAIN
AMERICA COULDN'T DO
THE JOB. IT'S TOO HUGE.
EVERY TIME I HOPED I
MADE PROGRESS, A NEW
VERSION OF EVIL RAISED
ITS TWISTED HEAD.





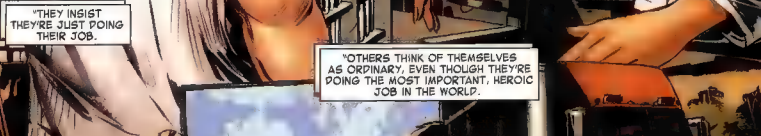
"YOU WON'T BE ALONE, JIMMY. TO FIGHT HATE DEMANDS A MULTITUDE. THAT'S WHY MY STRENGTH'S PRAYING SO FAST, AROUND THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE OTHER MEN AND WOMEN WITH YOUR VIRTUES."



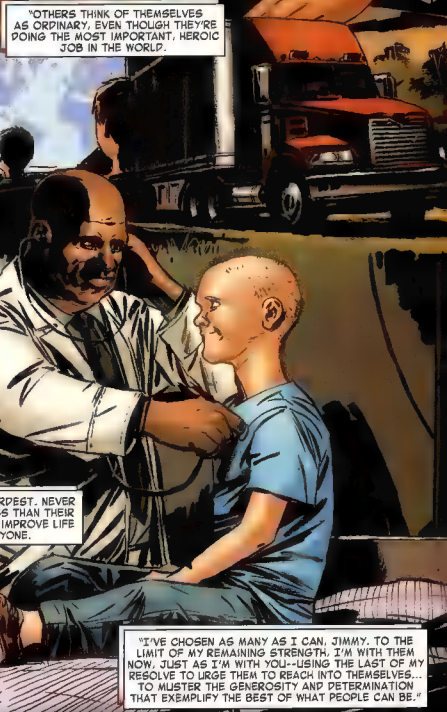
"DECENT, CARING PEOPLE WILLING TO SACRIFICE."



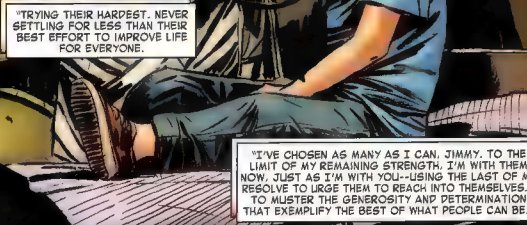
"SOME OF THEM ARE ALREADY HEROES, ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T THINK OF THEMSELVES THAT WAY."



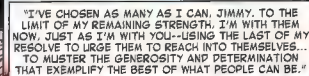
"THEY INSIST THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR JOB."



"OTHERS THINK OF THEMSELVES AS ORDINARY, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE DOING THE MOST IMPORTANT, HEROIC JOB IN THE WORLD."



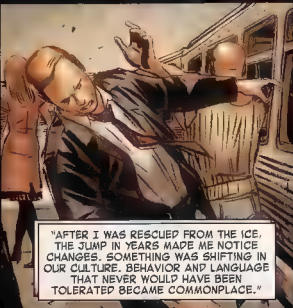
"TRYING THEIR HARDEST. NEVER SETTLING FOR LESS THAN THEIR BEST EFFORT TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR EVERYONE."



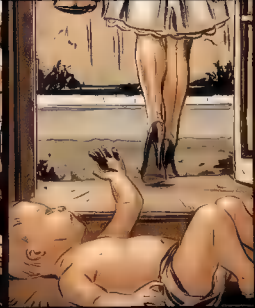
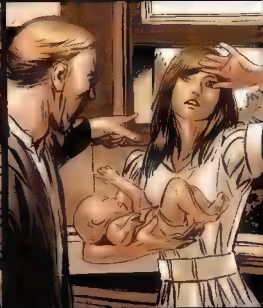
"I'VE CHOSEN AS MANY AS I CAN, JIMMY. TO THE LIMIT OF MY REMAINING STRENGTH, I'M WITH THEM NOW. JUST AS I'M WITH YOU--USING THE LAST OF MY RESOLVE TO URGE THEM TO REACH INTO THEMSELVES... TO HURTER THE GENEROSITY AND DETERMINATION THAT EXEMPLIFY THE BEST OF WHAT PEOPLE CAN BE."



WE AREN'T PERFECT. A GREAT NATION CAN ADMIT THAT. SOME REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT ALL OF US ARE CREATED EQUAL. OTHERS DEMAND THAT SELF-INTEREST IS ALL THAT MATTERS.



"AFTER I WAS RESCUED FROM THE ICE, THE JUMP IN YEARS MADE ME NOTICE CHANGES. SOMETHING WAS SHIFTING IN OUR CULTURE. BEHAVIOR AND LANGUAGE THAT NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN TOLERATED BECAME COMMONPLACE."



GREED IS GOOD? LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE? NO.



I'LL GLADLY SACRIFICE MY LIFE IF PEOPLE WILL ONLY UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYONE HAS IT IN THEM TO BE A HERO... THAT THEY CAN ALL BE CAPTAIN AMERICA.

